

COAL RATE WAR

PROBABLE OUTCOME OF THE DISRUPTION OF A BIG "COMBINE."

Disruption of the Hocking Valley Organization, a Concern That Controlled Many Soft Coal Mines.

NEW TELEPHONE COMPANY

TRUST ORGANIZED BY OPPONENTS OF THE BELL CORPORATION.

About 50 Per Cent. of the "Independents" Interested, and Capital Stock to Be Seven Millions.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL TRUSTS

UPPER LEATHER MANUFACTURERS AND STRAWBOARD MAKERS.

Scheme to Control All the Popular Brands of Champagne—Insurance Companies Indicted.

TOLEDO, O., March 22.—The General Hocking Coal Company, the largest soft coal combination in the country, will cease to exist on April 1. All the mines are located on the Hocking Valley Railroad. The output of these mines has been a million and a half tons a year, the individual operators selling their product through the combination. The trouble which has resulted in the dissolution of the company has arisen on all sides. There are complaints from every quarter and an attempt to renew the contracts which expire on April 1 has proved futile and much bitterness is expected over a settlement. Among the concerns in the Hocking Company are the New Pittsburgh Coal Company, the Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron Company, the Southern Ohio Coal Company, Joseph Slater, Courtwright, Kestle & Co., and Greenville Coal Company. In this city the New Pittsburgh Coal Company has secured a lease on the offices of the Hocking Company, while another firm has secured the office force.

It became known to-night that the downfall of the Hocking Company had been evident to the members for several months. But there has been a general desire to keep the matter quiet as long as possible. The near approach of the close of the contracts has made the dissolution of the company a matter of fact. It is said the entire output of the mines will be handled individually. The probable effect of this is the imminent opening of one of the greatest coal fields that Hocking valley has ever seen. This is evident from the fact that charges and counter-charges have been made, and there is a great amount of feeling among the various firms. The only incentive which has kept the price of soft coal will be removed with the dissolution of this combination. Each of the mines will increase its output, and prices are almost sure to be forced down in the fight. An attempt to form a "combine" of operators among the mines has been made recently with a view to effecting a complete dissolution cannot be prevented.

To Unite Coal Operators.
PITTSBURG, March 22.—An effort, which is supposed to be backed by Eastern capitalists, is being made to unite all the producing coal mines in the Pittsburgh district. Several attempts within the last two years have been made to bring about a combination of the operators, but those interested have never been able to get all the operators to agree to any one plan. The Morgan syndicate is supposed to be back of the present scheme. Agents have been in the district for some time and it was stated to-day that every operator had been approached and asked to give an option on his mines and property. It was proposed to buy the mines outright, paying cash on closing the deal or to give the operators stock in the new concern. The new trust, should it be formed, will be capitalized at about \$25,000,000.TO FIGHT THE BELL.
Combination of Independent Telephone Manufacturing Interests.
CHICAGO, March 22.—The Record to-morrow will say: "Independent telephone manufacturing interests have organized to fight the Bell Telephone Company with a trust of their own. At a secret session this afternoon the trust was organized for the purpose of launching a \$7,000,000 combine. W. T. Blaine, president of the Victor Telephone Manufacturing Company, of this city, is in charge as promoter in chief. It is represented that operations are in hand or in progress at 90 per cent. of the factories producing 'independent' apparatus. Details as to the plants this includes as well as the sources from which capital for their acquisition is to be raised, and the names of John J. Mitchell, president of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank; Assistant United States Treasurer William P. Williams and Mr. Merigold, a New York banker, are mentioned as the financial sponsors of the deal. Mr. Blaine's plans are reported to embrace the combining, among others, of the following concerns: American Electric Telephone Company, Chicago; Victor Telephone Manufacturing Company, Chicago; Western Telephone Construction Company, Chicago; Keystone Electric Telephone Company, Pittsburgh; Reliable Electric Manufacturing Company, Worcester, Mass.; Mayson Telephone Pay Station Company, Lexington, Mich.; Williams Electric Company, Cleveland, O.; Northwestern Electric Telephone Company, Milwaukee, Wis.; Sterling Electric Company, of Chicago; Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company, Chicago; Farr Telephone and Construction Company, Baltimore, Md.; Eureka Electric Company, Chicago; Butler-Taylor Company, Ravenna, O.; National Automatic Telephone Company, Chicago; Central Telephone and Electric Company, St. Louis, Mo. It is declared that one of the most influential factories outside of the Bell headquarters—the Kellogg Switchboard and Supply Company, of Chicago—has thus far resisted all overtures to join the combine. Mr. Kellogg could not be found to-day to speak of the trust plans. The representatives of the Stromberg-Carlson Company, which appears among those reported to have pooled resources, denied that they had as yet decided to do so. With ourselves and the Kellogg people outside,

said President A. Stromberg, Mr. Blaine's organization as far as being a formidable rival of the Bell is concerned would fail of its purpose. We are the only possessors of patents able to compete with the Bell for large exchange. We have had flattering offers to join the combine, but are satisfied with present conditions up to date."

STREET-RAILWAY DEAL.
Practical Consolidation of the Street-Railways of St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, March 22.—The Republic to-morrow will say: "A movement is on foot which, when completed, will amount to a practical consolidation of every street railway in St. Louis, although two systems will probably be maintained. None of the parties concerned will deny that such a plan has actually been agreed upon. Under this plan, the St. Louis Transit Company, an option has been secured on the People's Railway. The new company will deliver a certain amount of its stock to the Lindell-Missouri-Scullion syndicate and in return will receive a block of the new consolidated certificates of that company. The two companies will then be merged together to invade each other's territory, and as they will be mutually interested they will be the more apt to live up to this agreement to prevent any other company from entering the field."

INDICTED BY GRAND JURY.

Insurance Companies Alleged to Have Violated Anti-Trust Laws.

CINCINNATI, March 22.—The grand jury of Kenton county, at Covington, Ky., returned indictments at noon to-day against the Home Life Insurance Company, of New York, and forty-two other life and fire companies for conspiracy for "handling together and fixing and maintaining a higher rate of premium than would otherwise prevail." The indictment is found under the anti-trust laws of the commonwealth and this action of the grand jury may be followed by the execution of the threat made by the underwriters at the time of a previous indictment to withdraw and leave Covington without insurance. The first indictment was returned against the Covington agents of the companies and broke up the Underwriters' Association there. The agents notified the county authorities that their organization was disbanded and so no indictments were returned against them this time. No trials have been had under the first indictments. Insurance companies have withdrawn from some Kentucky towns because of similar prosecutions.

Prof. Ashley's View of Trusts.

LONDON, March 22.—At the banquet of the British Economic Association this evening, Sir Robert Giffen, former assistant secretary of the Board of Trade, presiding, Prof. Ashley delivered the opening address on the position of trusts in the United States. Prof. Ashley said the trusts were mainly the outcome of an attempt to get rid of the disastrous effects of cut-throat competition. The public, in his opinion, had greatly exaggerated their power to rule prices. He contended that the tendency of trusts in the United States was in fact to lower prices, as had been seen in the case of the Standard Oil Trust. Undoubtedly the trusts gave an advantage to capitalists, but they also tended to secure steadiness in the rate of remuneration for labor and to promote continuity of employment and an increased stability in industry.

The Upper Leather "Combine."

BOSTON, March 22.—The Evening Journal says: "About 60 per cent. of the units of the United States engaged in the manufacture of upper leather from hides or calf skins have signed options for the turning over of their business to the American Hide and Leather Company, which is to be incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, with \$200,000 capital, one-half preferred and one-half common stock. There are thirty-one concerns which have up to this time failed to sign the agreement to turn over their tanneries to the new combination."

Strawboard Company Prospects.

NEW YORK, March 22.—The prospects of the National Strawboard Company have been issued. It says that the company is to be incorporated under the laws of New Jersey with a capital of \$5,000,000 equally divided between common and 1 per cent. cumulative preferred stock. The company will have a working capital of \$200,000 and is expected by its managers to control half the strawboard output of the country. An agreement will be reached, it is said, with the American Strawboard Company, which controls the other half of the output.

Vinegar Promoters at Work.

CINCINNATI, O., March 22.—In the prospectus issued by C. A. Summers, of Tona-wanda, N. Y., as the promoter of the proposed vinegar combine, the Illinois Vinegar Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, is included among the plants that are going into the trust. This plant is said to be three times larger than any other vinegar works in the country and its president, Julius Fleischmann, lives here. Mr. Fleischmann says the Illinois Vinegar Company has not agreed to enter the combine.

Two Combinations Assured.

PITTSBURG, March 22.—The proposed flint-glass tableware combination has practically been formed and will soon be ready for business. To-day 88 per cent. of the manufacturers have given options on their plants and there are only two firms that have so far refused to enter, but it is expected they will be in line in a short time. The lamp combination is also assured. It will be capitalized at \$5,000,000, \$4,000,000 of which will be preferred stock and \$2,000,000 common.

The Bar Mill "Combine."

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 22.—Iron operators here assert that the bar mill combine, which includes three rolling mills in this city, is now a certainty and the details are being arranged by the underwriters, J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., of New York. It is stated that Jack F. Taylor, of the Brown-Bonell Company, of this city, will have a high official position with the new company.

Sold to the Tobacco Trust.

BALTIMORE, March 22.—The M. S. Pacholder Cigarette Company was to-day sold to the American Tobacco Company. The company made a specialty of the manufacture of all-tobacco cigarettes and it is said the ransom of the independent factory in the city. It is contemplated to enter (Continued on Second Page.)

AN ULTIMATUM

AGUINALDO IS SAID TO HAVE SERVED NOTICE ON AMERICANS.

Unless They Withdraw Within Twenty Days He Will Personally Lead His Army Into Manila.

HIS FORCES CONCENTRATING

AND SAVING THEIR AMMUNITION FOR A DECISIVE ATTACK.

New Plan of Campaign Formulated by General Otis, and an Important Movement Expected Soon.

SCARE IN ISLAND OF NEGROS

MANY SPANISH PLANTERS FLEEING TO ILOILO FOR PROTECTION.

Features of the Address Prepared by the American Commission for Distribution in the Philippines.

MANILA, March 22.—While apparently inactive since Sunday really the opposite has been the case with the American forces. A reorganization, entailing many changes, has been in progress since the abandonment of the flying column. General Whelan's and General Hall's brigades have not been assigned, but the Oregon Regiment, the Minnesota Regiment and the Twenty-second Regiment have been concentrated at the camp on the Luneta, at the water front, in readiness for immediate transportation when the plans of the military leaders have been formulated. Our troops are entrenched and the situation is practically unchanged. The enemy has refrained from making any attacks recently and it would appear that the rebels are saving their ammunition for a decisive movement.

According to a prisoner captured by our troops, Aguinaldo has announced that he will personally conduct the reserves at Malolos and march into Manila within twenty days unless the Americans withdraw in the meantime. The concentration of rebel forces in the vicinity of Malaban gives color to the statement of the prisoner. Advice received from Cebu by a coasting steamer say everything is quiet there. The United States transport Sherman, from New York on Feb. 2 has arrived here. One child, two sailors and two privates died on the voyage and one man was drowned in the Mediterranean.

Spaniards Fleeing from Negros.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A special from Manila says: "Reports of fighting in the island of Negros, without any particulars, have reached Manila. The transport Indiana is leaving now for Negros with one battalion of the First California Regiment under Colonel Dubois."

A special from Iloilo says: "A scare is prevailing in the island of Negros. Upward of sixty Spanish refugee planters have arrived at Iloilo and state that a native tribe, 2,000 strong, living in the Montenegro river, twenty miles south of Bacolod, threaten to destroy the haciendas and crops. They have a few firearms, but are mostly equipped with spears and bows. The Spaniards requested arms from General Miller to defend themselves against the natives. There is no change in the situation here. The wounded men are recovering."

ADDRESS TO FILIPINOS.

Points from the Appeal Formulated by American Commissioners.

NEW YORK, March 22.—The Journal's Manila correspondent cables to-day that the address to the Filipinos, drafted by the American commission in behalf of the United States government and embodying the views of the President, has been made public. After being translated into all the native dialects, it is to be disseminated throughout the archipelago. The address assures the Filipinos of the intention of the Americans to develop the powers of self-government in the people. It explains that the United States has assumed international obligations, which must be met, and which makes it responsible to the whole civilized world for the stable government of the Philippines. The commission, it is explained, is to interpret to the natives the purposes and intentions of the President toward them, and also suggest the establishment of such government as shall suit the capacity and requirements of the Filipinos and be consistent with the interests of the United States. The protection of the United States is not to be exercised in any spirit of tyranny or vengeance; but, having destroyed the Spanish power and accepted the sovereignty of the islands, the United States is bound to restore peace in the Philippines. To this end all insurgents are invited to lay down their arms and place their trust in the government that emanates from the oppression of Spanish rule. The majority of the commissioners incline toward giving the Filipinos a sort of tribal or provincial local autonomy under a central government, which shall be military until a purely civil system is proved to be feasible.

The Sherman at Manila.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—General Otis has cabled the War Department, announcing the arrival of the transport Sherman at Manila. The Sherman sailed from New York with the Third Infantry and four companies of the Seventeenth Infantry, under command of Col. F. H. Page. The troops are reported as arriving all well and in good condition. The Sherman followed the Grant through the Suez canal and preceded the transport Sheridan over the same route. The Sheridan is expected to reach Manila in about two weeks. The three vessels will add about 5,000 fresh regular troops to the military forces in the Philippines, and are expected to aid materially in the plans which contemplate the complete subjugation of the insurrectionists before the opening of the rainy season, about the middle of April.

The Solace has Arrived at Manila.

The Solace has arrived at Manila, forty-three days from Norfolk. This is eleven days less time than the Buffalo, and is very fast time.

The Spanish Prisoners.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "Major General Otis and the other members of the Philippine commission will decide whether or not the ransom of the Spanish prisoners held by Aguinaldo is to be permitted. As a result of representations by Ambassador

Cambon and the National Red Cross, showing the deplorable condition of the prisoners, General Otis will be given power to act, after advising with his associates on the commission. The President hopes it may be found possible to obtain the release of the prisoners, but does not wish to give General Otis direct instructions, in view of his former objection on the ground that it would give Aguinaldo means to secure military supplies. There are said to be about five hundred Spanish prisoners, most of them priests. As the Filipinos blamed the priests for most of the hardships they suffered under Spanish rule, they are particularly inhuman in their treatment of the churchmen."

Want Dewey's Presence.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—A committee of citizens who are arranging for a peace jubilee in Washington next May called at the Navy Department to-day to secure if possible the attendance of Admiral Dewey on that occasion. Their application was made directly to Secretary Long. They stated that the proposed peace celebration will be exceptional in the fact that it is to be practically national in character, and his would justify the request that the hero of Manila be summoned to attend. The secretary listened with interest to what the committee had to say and replied that he would confer with the President on the subject. It would be a question, he said, simply as to whether or not the occasion would justify the admiral in leaving his duties at Manila.

The Ninth Infantry.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 22.—The first two sections of the Ninth United States Infantry arrived from New York to-day. The first section consisted of Captain McCaleb, five officers and 199 men, and the second section consisted of Captain Rockefeller, five officers and 199 men. The third, fourth and fifth sections are expected to arrive late to-night and the sixth and last section is due here some time to-morrow. The companies have been ordered aboard the transports City of Pueblo and the Zealandia. The City of Pueblo will probably depart for Manila to-morrow. The Zealandia is to be on the Zealandia before she is ready for sea, and the date of her departure has not yet been set.

Tennesseeans at Iloilo.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Friends of the First Tennessee Regiment having lost track of its whereabouts, the War Department made inquiry of General Otis. He stated that the regiment is at Iloilo "in good condition and performing excellent work."

POWDER WORKS BLOWN UP.

Three Men Killed and Others Slightly Injured in New Jersey.

PENNS GROVE, N. J., March 22.—Over three thousand pounds of smokeless powder exploded to-day at the E. I. Dupont powder works, instantly killing three workmen and injuring a number of others slightly. The dead are:

ISAAC LAYTON, aged fifty years, married.

WILLIAM FORD, aged forty, married.

JOHN MAGILL, aged thirty, single.

The bodies of the three men were blackened and disfigured. The shock from the explosion shook the country for miles around and in this town heavy panes of glass were broken in many houses. The drying house and the storehouses were demolished and other small buildings about the works were damaged. Francis G. Dupont, son-in-law of the late John G. Dupont, and nephew were at work in the laboratory at the time of the explosion and were slightly injured by pieces of glass, but personally directed the care of the other injured and the recovery of the dead. The works have been running on emergency orders since the explosion. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined.

CRISIS IN JAMAICA.

Intimation that There May Be a Revolt Against Tax Laws.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 22.—A political crisis of gravity, said to be the most important since 1863, is now occupying the attention of Jamaica. The Governor, Sir Augustus Hemming, as forecasted in these dispatches on Feb. 21, prorogued the Legislature yesterday and reconvened it for to-day by order of the secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, for the purpose of introducing the obnoxious tariff bill, taxing industrial implements and literature, which the Council rejected on March 15, the Governor at the same time bringing in a four-page official memo to out-vote the representatives of the colored people. Chamberlain has convened public meetings throughout the country, and it has called Mr. Chamberlain the gravity of the situation. Much excitement prevails, and it is said there will be trouble if the government persists in its present policy.

A Bogus Interview.

LEWISTON, Me., March 22.—Amos L. Allen, secretary to Speaker Reed, says regarding the interview printed to-day, in which he was made to say that Mr. Reed would not be a candidate for the presidential nomination in 1900, that he did not make such a statement, and did not know whether Mr. Reed would be a candidate or not.

BRYAN WILL GO TO NEW YORK.

Will Attend Dinner of the Chicago Platform Democrats.

NEW YORK, March 22.—The Jefferson banquet of the Chicago platform Democrats of this city will take place on the night of April 18. Col. William J. Bryan has given his assurance that he will be present. It is expected that he will make a notable speech stating the stand which he believes the Democratic party should take in the national campaign of next year. It is planned to have the labor unions take a very prominent part in the dinner. Eugene V. Brewster, who is managing the Bryan dinner, said to-night: "Some confusion has arisen over the names of the dinner. It was decided first not to call it a dinner of Chicago platform Democrats, because of Governor Pingree and others who are Republicans. It was then decided to call it a dinner of the Chicago platform Democrats, and I have heard from Mr. Bryan to-night and engaged it. Because of the confusion no invitations were sent to anybody but Mr. Bryan. We have learned, however, from Governor Pingree, Mr. Altgeld and Chairman Aldrich that they would come any day after April 18."

Tells Why He Killed His Five Children and Set Fire to the House.

MPHERSON, Kan., March 22.—John A. Moore, who murdered his five children at Hutchinson, and who was brought here as a precaution against a threatened lynching, confessed his crime to-day before a notary public. The prisoner stated that he had quarreled with his wife and that a separation was talked of, in which event he feared his children would come under the control of his wife's family, whom he dislikes. It was brooding over the prospect of his children being reared in the surroundings, he confessed, that prompted him to crush their skulls with a hatchet, cut their throats and fire the house in which their bodies lay.

PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

Historic Canadian Battlefield to Be Converted Into Town Lots.

QUEBEC, March 22.—The Plains of Abraham, sacred in the history of Canada, have been mapped out. Until yesterday Canada has paid a nominal rental of \$100 a year to preserve the battlefield. Within two years, failing a new arrangement, the historical plains will begin to be converted into a closely settled suburb of Quebec. Every lot in one of my neighbors of Long Island I condemned the Sherman-McKinley currency plan, advocating payment

LEAVES JEKYL

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY RETURNS TO THE THOMASVILLE RESORT.

His Visit to the Island Devoid of Political Phases, and He Held No Conference with Speaker Reed.

BRYAN ALSO IN THE SOUTH

MAKING HIMSELF SOLID WITH THE DEMOCRATS OF TENNESSEE.

He Denounces Corporations and Says Those Who Grind the People Make Their Fortunes Dishonestly.

MR. BELMONT'S POSTSCRIPT

NEW YORK DEMOCRAT TELLS WHY HE IS NOT A BRYANITE.

Conference of Labor Agitators, Social Reformers and Others Who Desire to Form a National Party.

THOMASVILLE, Ga., March 22.—President McKinley and Vice President Hobart returned to the home of Senator Hanna this evening much refreshed and pleased with their trip to Jekyll Island. The visit has been a most enjoyable one, and the meeting of Speaker Reed and the President was confined to two exchanges of common courtesies in the presence of a number of other persons. At Jekyll the President was made one of the large island family and permitted to exercise his own pleasure without any forced attentions. Nearly four hours to-day was spent in a pleasant water trip from Jekyll to Brunswick. Mr. N. K. Fairbanks, H. W. Cannon, Mrs. Nelson Page, ex-Secretary Bliss and the ladies of their families accompanied Mr. McKinley to the latter place.

At Brunswick all the shipping, including three Spanish vessels, saluted the President's cutter, the Colfax. H. H. Raymond, Southern manager of the Mallory line, had the big steamer Rio Grande, ablaze with bunting and also presented to the President a good-sized flag from the bark Taffalla, which had been waved in salute as the President's boat steamed down the harbor to Jekyll last Monday. It was accompanied by the following note: "This is the first Spanish flag which saluted President William McKinley after the conclusion of peace between the United States and Spain and is now presented to the President at Brunswick, Ga., March 22, 1899, with the compliments of Rosendo Torres, late vice consul of Spain."

This courtesy greatly pleased Mr. McKinley. The president pulled out of Brunswick at 1:45 and Conductor Joseph Palmer, Jr., of the Plant system, landed his distinguished passengers in Thomasville at 5:35. The presidential party drove at once to Senator Hanna's and rested during the evening. Friday the President probably will go to Tallahassee, returning the same day. Early next week he will leave here for Washington.

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and extermination of the greenback debt; that the existing unit of value should be legal tender and condemned all "McKinleyism" wherever it showed its head, whether in coinage, currency, taxation or the tariff. Later I protested before the Democratic Club against the creation of any more "inferior dollars" in order to repudiate any part of the public debt.

"Although not taking part in the New York Democratic convention of June 24, 1898, whose platform I thoroughly approved, I attended the Chicago convention as a delegate, uniting with the New York delegation in a protest against the platform and its candidates, as set forth in my telegram of July 10, printed in the New York World, as follows: 'The platform will make a protest, both against the platform and the candidates, nominated of such an emphatic character as to leave no doubt of the position which delegation occupies. So far as I am concerned, neither of the candidates nominated will be supported.' After the adoption of the platform, against the money question, I was asked to announce through its chairman upon every subsequent vote taken that it refused to participate in the platform. I did so, and the convention, thus leaving each delegate his complete freedom of action."

"I attended the Indianapolis money convention and supported Palmer and Buckner. I was asked to announce through its chairman upon every subsequent vote taken that it refused to participate in the platform. I did so, and the convention, thus leaving each delegate his complete freedom of action."

BRYAN TO LEGISLATORS.

He Says Corporations Are a Dangerous Enemy of the Farmer.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 22.—Hon. W. J. Bryan was the guest of the General Assembly of Tennessee here to-day. He addressed the joint assembly at Lakeside, Fla., a vast crowd visiting the Capitol in anticipation of the occasion. Many were unable to gain admission to galleries or halls, so great was the crush. Governor McMillin, presented Mr. Bryan, who spoke at some length. He said he regarded the representative as a necessary evil in the government, and against misrepresenting constituents. Corporations were referred to as the dangerous enemy of the farmer. "Those who grind the people," he said, "are those who have made their fortunes dishonestly."

Legislative halls are places where it is proper to refer to the highest democracy that teaches man to respect the rights of others. Concluding he said: "It will be a pleasure to me to be able to state that I am addressing a legislature where the members are engaged with me in the same work."

In the afternoon Mr. Bryan visited the Tennessee Industrial School, and to-night left for Birmingham. In an interview he said he would read the book Perry Belmont's "The National Party."

ANOTHER PARTY PROPOSED.

Meeting of Labor Agitators, Silverites and Reformers in General.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A meeting of labor agitators, social reformers, silver men and delegates from several unions organized for the advancement of various kinds of social conditions, was held in this city to-day. Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford presided for a time, and then his place was taken by Cornelius E. Baird, of Philadelphia. While the conference was informal, some of the participants have expressed the opinion that a national party will be organized. Among those present were Dr. C. F. Taylor, of Philadelphia; Eugene V. Debs, Herman J. Schullers and A. S. Dulin, both of Washington, and President George P. Kenney, of the Association of Laborers and Trades Clubs. Most of those present made speeches, and the advisability of calling a national conference was discussed, though no action was taken. Mr. Kenney said another meeting would be held, and he thought some plan would be agreed upon to it. It is said that if the conference is called, it will be held in Buffalo about June 25-July 4, at which time the national social and political conference will be held in that city.

Teller for Bryan Again.

CLEVELAND, O., March 22.—Senator H. M. Teller, of Colorado, was asked here to-day what in his judgment would be the Democratic issue in the next presidential campaign. "I think there is no doubt," replied he, "that the Democratic party will make the financial question the issue."

"Who will be the Democratic presidential nominee?"

"Undoubtedly Mr. Bryan will be the choice of his party," promptly replied the senator. In regard to Mr. Bryan's controversy with Perry Belmont, Senator Teller said: "I think Mr. Bryan did exactly right in taking the position he did. Those fellows in that organization are not Democrats; they are Republicans masquerading under Democratic colors. They opposed Mr. Bryan's election in 1896. They called him a traitor and endanger the Nation's welfare, and he did perfectly right in declining to accept the invitation."

Does Not Lose Vote by Moving.

ST. LOUIS, March 22.—The St. Louis Court of Appeals in reversing the decision of a lower court, has upheld the right of a citizen to vote, notwithstanding he may have moved from one house to another in the same precinct after he registered.

POPE LEO'S END NEAR.

Mgr. Martinelli Said to Have Received Private Advice from Rome.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A dispatch to the World from Washington says: "Apostolic Delegate Martinelli, who is in constant receipt of news from private sources in Rome concerning the Pope's condition, believes the Pontiff's extreme age renders it extremely probable that his end cannot be far off. A recent letter from a Vatican official quotes the Pope as saying since his last attack, when I did not give me much trouble to the doctors, nurses and servants. I am only skin and bone, and my life will go out like a lamp which has no oil to feed it." Church officials here think that is just the way the Pontiff will go to his rest and that already he is nearer the end than is believed in this country."

The Pope Depressed.

LONDON, March 22.—The Rome correspondence of the Daily Telegraph says: "The Pope is beginning to feel the effects of his long illness. He is a very old man, and his health is very poor. He is a very old man, and his health is very poor. He is a very old man, and his health is very poor."

LYNCHING POSSIBLE.

General Washington, a Negro, Kills Powhattan Winn, a Farmer.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 22.—Powhattan Winn, a prominent Union county farmer, was shot and killed from ambush ten miles from Eldorado last night by a negro named General Washington. Winn was in jail at Eldorado. He has confessed his crime and is threatened with lynching.

EN ROUTE EAST

ARMY DEEF PROBERS CONCLUDE THEIR INQUIRIES IN THE WEST.

Leave Chicago for New York, Where Governor Theodore Roosevelt Will Have an Opportunity to Be Heard.

STORY TOLD BY A BELL BOY

SAYS HE ACCOMPANIED A STRANGER TO THE STOCK YARDS.

Where a Mysterious Experiment of Preserving Beef by Chemical Treatment Was Made in a Car.

LIEUT. HARTMAN'S EVIDENCE

SERGEANT MASON'S "PRESERVATIVE" TESTIMONY NOT SUPPORTED.

Provision Specialist Marshall of the Opinion that Canned Roast Beef Is Not Fit for Human Food.

CHICAGO, March 22.—The members of the government court of inquiry finished their labors in Chicago to-day and left for New York this evening. The testimony of Governor Theodore Roosevelt will there be received, after which the court will proceed to Governor's Island. The evidence brought forth to-day was largely cumulative in its character, consisting mainly of criticisms of the canned beef and refrigerated beef from soldiers who ate it and watched its effects in Cuba and Porto Rico. The testimony of Sergeant Mason, concerning "preservative," given at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., last Sunday, was not supported by Lieutenant Hartman. The latter said some of the beef that he ate at Lakeside, Fla., was bad, but he did